

MASON'S
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COLLECTORS'



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No. 2.

ANCIENT COINS IN THE CABINET OF THE UNITED
STATES MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

We present our patrons this month with a plate, representing some of the interesting ancient coins in the cabinet of the United States Mint, in this city:

No. 1. Denarius. This piece was struck by Lucretius, A. V. C. (i. e. in the year from the foundation of Rome) 535, or thereabouts, corresponding to B. C. 218.

No. 2. Denarius of Augustus. R. Civic crown. S. P. Q. R. (Senatus Populus que Romanus)—OB CIVIS SERVATOS. Augustus died A. D. 14.

No. 3. Silver coin of Valerius Maximianus. Died A. D. 310. The type represents the gateway of the camp of the Prætorian guards.

No. 4. An aureus of Nicephorus II and Basil II, emperors at Constantinople from A. D. 965 to 969.

No. 5. A didrachma of Corinth, struck prior to the capture of that city by the Romans under the Consul Mummius, B. C. 144.

No. 6. A coin of Neapolis, in Macedonia. The type represents the mask worn by actors on the ancient stage.*

No. 7. A coin of Menander, King of Bactria, of uncertain date. The coins of the Bactrian dynasty were first brought to light by the British during the Sikh war.

No. 7. These pieces present a remnant of the Greek civilization introduced by Alexander the Great in his expedition into India. It is probable that the first Greek King of Bactria was a satrap, left behind by the conqueror when he commenced his homeward march.

Nos. 8 and 9. Coins of the Arsacidæ, Kings of Parthia. The absence of legends renders it impossible to attribute these pieces to any specified sovereign. The dynasty of the Arsacidæ began to reign about B. C. 200.

No. 10. A coin of Alexander III, or Great, of Macedonia. B. C. 339-324.

No. 11. A shekel. The reverse only is given. It bears a triple lily, with the legend, which translated signifies, Jerushalaim ha

Vide Eckhel, Tom. II, p. 72.

Kedoshah—Jerusalem the holy. These pieces were struck in the time of the Maccabees. The legend is in the Samaritan character. All coins bearing the square Hebrew letters are forgeries.

No. 12. A coin of Artaxerxes I, King of Persia, of the dynasty of the Sassanidæ. He reigned from A. D. 226 to A. D. 240. The legend is in Sassanian characters. The reverse of this piece (not given in the plate) gives a view of the ancient ceremonies of the fire worshippers, restored by the Sassanidæ.

WOOD HALF PENNIES AND FARTHING.

COLLATED BY JOHN W. HASELTINE.

(*Concluded.*)

As a sample of the ballads which Swift issued, and which were received with immense applause by the excited populace, we may furnish the following:

Here are some verses from "Will Wood's petition to the people of Ireland," being "an excellent song," supposed to be made and sung in the streets of Dublin, by William Wood, iron-monger and half-penny monger :

"My dear Irish folks,
Come leave off your jokes,
And buy up my half-pence so fine :
So fair and so bright,
They will give you delight :
Observe how they glisten and shine.

"When tradesmen have gold,
The thief will be bold
By night and by day for to rob him :
My copper is such
No robber will touch,
And so you may daintily bob him."

"The half-pence are coming, the nation's undoing ;
There's an end of your ploughing, and baking and brewing ;
In short, you must all go to rack and to ruin,
Which nobody can deny."

On an ignorant and excitable people, the effect of this style of address was amazing. It was followed up by a series of letters called "the Drapier's letters."

When the Government published the result of the examination at the mint, he boldly treated it as a farce. When it declared that no one should be compelled to take this money unless he liked, that the Government's object was not compulsion, but accommodation, he more than insinuated that this was all pretence, that Government and its officers would find means of compelling its acceptance in payment.

The Government, to remove the clamor, reduced the amount to be issued from one hundred and eight thousand pounds to forty thousand pounds, and proposed that no more than five-pence half-penny should be a legal tender at one payment. No matter; the unscrupulous Swift raised an alarm lest the King should agree to take his Irish taxes in this copper, so as to bring it into circulation. Now the taxes amounted to four hundred thousand pounds, and only forty thousand pounds' worth of copper was to be minted; so that the folly of such a suggestion as forty thousand pounds paying ten times that amount was too palpable to escape any but the most frantic factionists, but it escaped the Irish.

In the Drapier's letters, Swift had called on the public to issue a declaration binding themselves not to take Wood's money; and many persons of station and property did so, and called on their tenants also to refuse it.

The new Lord Lieutenant, Carteret, landed amid this tempest. The fury and tumult were indescribable. All parties, Catholics and Protestants, Whigs, Tories, Orangemen and Rapparees, were equally frantic. The merchants to whom the coin had been assigned would not receive it, and publicly announced that they had nothing to do with it. The shopkeepers refused it, declaring that such wretched stuff would neither procure them news, ale, tobacco nor brandy. Wood's effigy was dragged through the streets of Dublin and then burned. Lord Carteret and the privy council published a proclamation, offering a reward of £300 for the discovery of the author of "The Drapier's letters."

The upshot was that the Government was compelled to withdraw the copper coinage.

Wood was indemnified to the extent of three thousand pounds a year, for twelve years.

THE NEW UNITED STATES SILVER PATTERN COINS. FIFTY, TWENTY-FIVE AND TEN CENT PIECES.

The plan of this coinage is briefly indicated in the recent annual report of the Director of the Mint. It might interest our readers to present it in detail, although it would be impracticable to state all the arguments urged by those in favor of the change in our silver coinage. The following are its main features:

First. To reduce the present weight.

Second. To make a close limit of legal tender.

Third. To limit the amount of issue.

It is also proposed to keep this coinage in good condition by recalling the pieces when too much worn or defaced, and reissuing pieces of full weight in their stead, without loss to the depositor.

The advocates of this measure claim that, by this change of legal weight, the Mint can proceed at once to supply the country with a fractional currency of silver, in place of paper, without delaying for

the resumption of gold payments. They also claim, by such reduction in weight, hoarding and exportation would be prevented, and that in the future the people would not be deprived by war, panic, or gold suspension of their change, as has been the case three times within the memory of many. These silver coins would be equally current whether gold was at par with paper money or at a premium say of from 20 to 25 per cent: their value for payments depending on statute, and not on the price of bullion. Our present silver coinage under the dollar, considered as bullion, is also below the gold value; yet not enough to keep them now in circulation and out of the melting pot and exporters' hands. How much the reduction should be is an open question. These specimens given weigh respectively 154, 77, and about 31 grains, which is four-fifths ($\frac{4}{5}$) of the present standards, *while they are of equal purity*. This last sentence is emphasized, as many persons have been misled respecting the proposed coinage, by reading or hearing that it was an attempt to *debase* our coinage. The standard fineness remains the same as at present; the standard weight is reduced, as was done by act of Congress in 1853. To the eye the pieces look as large as our present silver coins, the difference in diameter being very trifling—in the half dollar one (1) millimetre, in the quarter dollar one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) millimetres, and in the dime one (1) millimetre less in diameter.

Small change is one of the necessities of civilized life, and nothing is so well adapted to this use as silver. Fractional currency in paper soon becomes dirty, ragged and worn out, so that it has to be called in every few months to be reprinted. No other country has such a currency. The convenience of the people in procuring the new coin would be complete. Instead of sending silver to obtain the coins, all that would be necessary would be to deposit greenbacks at the Mint, or at any agency designated by law, and receive in return the silver change. The Mint cannot indeed make ingots out of paper, but with the paper it will manage to replenish its stock of bullion. It is claimed that by a strict adherence to the second and third points named, viz.: making a close limit of legal tender, and limiting the amount of issue, these coins may be kept from any possible depreciation—say make the limit of the former not above two or three dollars in any one payment, and the latter limited within the absolute requirements of the people. Under these restrictions the storekeeper would never find them accumulating on his hands; on the contrary, the demand upon him would require him to pay them out as fast as received. When a profit is derived from the coinage it becomes the positive duty of Government to keep the currency in good condition. England and Germany now act upon this assumption, although in this country it has never been done in our silver coinage. The public should not be annoyed, as in former times, with smooth, illegible pieces. To avoid this would not require a recoinage more than once in twenty or thirty years. The advocates of this coinage argue that gold is the only unchanging standard of value the world over, and

that silver is only used for the purposes of change, or manufacturing, and therefore no country, no matter what its situation may be financially, should be without a currency in silver, to meet the requirements of the people for change. They also argue that there is now, and will continue to be, an ample product of silver from our own mines, which had better be employed at home than sent abroad; and that what remains of the present legal silver coins, being hoarded and lying idle, could quickly be brought into use by recoinage at the new rate. Nearly all of our silver coin has been drawn off to Canada, the West Indies, and South America, or else converted into bars of commerce in Europe, so that we are in the best possible condition for taking a fresh start, with a practicable standard. They also argue that the introduction of the new coinage would pave the way to a gradual and more certain resumption of gold payments, by accustoming the people to the daily use of a precious metal currency, thus establishing confidence, which is the great element in the accomplishment of the desired end. The views and arguments above mentioned, are presented that our readers may know upon what grounds this important change in our coinage is urged.

The fifty cent coins present on the obverse the head of Liberty, surrounded by the usual words "United States of America;" beneath the bust a label bearing the legend, "In God we trust;" reverse, Fifty Cents, the word cents slightly curved upward beneath the figure 50. Above the wreath the words "Standard Silver"—forming a semi-circle on the upper portion of the coin; date below, 1869. The reverse of the fifty cent, twenty-five cent and ten cent coins are alike; there are three varieties of obverse of each denomination, consisting of a difference in the formation of the Liberty heads; two of the latter have diagonal bands across the side of the head bearing the legend, Liberty; one has a helmet, bearing stars on the chaplet. There are nine varieties in the set (three of each denomination). Price of the set, \$15. All sets obtained from the mint after the present month will bear the date of 1870.

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

The lapidary divides the precious stones into ten principal grades, which we shall give in their respective order of hardness: 1. The Diamond. 2. The Sapphire, the Ruby. 3. The Topaz, the Emerald, the Amethyst. 4. The Carnelian, the Carbuncle, the Garnet, the Onyx, the Sardonyx, the Heliotrope, the Chrysolite, the Hyacinth, the Cat's-eye. 5. The Opal. 6. The Pearl. 7. The Turquoise. Under the 8, 9 and 10 grades are classed substances not falling under the denomination of Precious Stones, such as Amber, Coral, Lava,

Ivory, etc. The substance given under each of these grades will scratch all those substances classified under subsequent grades, and the ancients engraved them all save the Diamond, and the art of engraving that was discovered by Ambrosius Caradossa, A. D. 1500. We will now proceed with the consideration of the Diamond, the first in the above order.

The Diamond, by unanimous consent, is placed at the head of all gems, and this rank it has always held. It was named by the Greeks "adamant," from two words signifying "unconquerable." This title was given it from its hardness, it being then supposed indestructible in its atoms, though it might be reduced to atoms by the hammer or otherwise. But the magical electric current reduced this hardest of substances to mere gaseous products—though it had before that been somewhat volatilized in the focus of the great lens of Cosmo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany, in the middle of the seventeenth century. The degree of temperature required for its combustion is 5000 degrees Fahrenheit. It is just three and a half times as heavy as an equal bulk of water. Its refractive power exceeds that of any other body, and thus endows it with its extraordinary brilliancy. It seems, however, to incorporate light within itself, or to be phosphorescent, as it will at times emit rays of light of its own in total darkness. This light is oftener observed upon rubbing the stone with the finger, or with any silk, woolen or fur substance. It is a non-conductor of electricity, and is not acted upon by any solvent. The Diamond has never been found in rocks, as are all other minerals, but only in gravel and mud conglomerations in beds of rivers, in deep ravines on the slopes of mountains, and in cavities and water courses on the summits of (sometimes) the loftiest elevations; and hence it is believed to be the product of vegetable secretion. This supposition is confirmed by the results of the experiments upon it, which seem to demonstrate it to be pure crystalized carbon. The primitive form of the Diamond is the regular octohedron, or two four sided pyramids, whose sides are equilateral triangles, placed base to base. Diamonds are generally found nearly colorless and those that are entirely so are most esteemed. However, they have been found rose colored, yellow, blue, green, red, gray, brown and even black. But the latter are extremely rare. When colored, it is by the presence of some adventitious substance, as by the oxides of iron, manganese, nickel, chromium, etc. Those Diamonds which are only tinged with the various colors are of less value than those colored deeply.

The modes of testing the Diamond are various. The most convenient are submitting them to a white heat and rubbing them with a pointed Sapphire. They will undergo the former test without melting and the latter without being scratched; and the Sapphire is the second in the order of hardness as we have above stated, and will scratch every other substance but the Diamond.

Frequent attempts have been made to produce the Diamond through artificial chemical processes, but without the least success.

The two principal regions yielding the Diamond are portions of Hindostan and Brazil. At present, the latter country yields most of these gems, though the most celebrated now existing were produced by the former. We say celebrated, since, from the fact that Diamonds are the gems especially appropriated by monarchs and nobles, and the wealthiest of the people, many of them are subjects of historic fame. Indeed, more than once a large Diamond has affected the fate of an Asiatic kingdom.

(To be continued.)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(Continued.)

Amid all these coercive regulations, it could not but be obvious to every thinking man that the only cause of the derangement of the prices was the excessive issue of paper. In the year 1778, a very laudable effort was made to create a sinking fund, by establishing an annual tax of six millions of dollars for eighteen years. A committee was directed to prepare a plan that should specifically appropriate that sum to the extinguishment of the Continental debt. Yet very little confidence was placed in those good intentions, if we may judge by the rapid depreciation at this period; which, indeed, was such that Congress could no longer force the circulation at prescribed rates in reference to metallic money, and it was, therefore, resolved by that body, on the eighth of October, 1778, "that all limitation of prices of silver and gold be taken off."

The circular to the States, when the tax for the year 1779 was called for, is a very moving address, replete with ardent feelings, and contains, among other matters, the following in relation to paper money:

"Being in the outset at war, without arms or ammunition, without military discipline or permanent finances, without an established government or allies, enfeebled by habitual attachments to our very enemies, we were precipitated into all the expensive operations incident to a state of war, with one of the most formidable nations on earth; we, from necessity, embraced the expedient of emitting paper money on the faith of the United States; an expedient which had often been successfully practiced in separate colonies while we were subject to British dominion. Large issues were, of consequence, necessary, and the paper currency multiplied, of course, beyond what was required for the purpose of a circulating medium. To raise the value of our paper money, nevertheless, and to redeem it, will not, we are persuaded, be difficult. They only ask for time and patience, and fix on the first day of January, 1797, or about eighteen years, for the full payment of their debts."

A few months after, when the depreciation of the currency kept on

increasing, that illustrious Congress raised its voice again in the following appeal:

"America, almost totally stripped of commerce, and in the weakness of youth, as it were, with a staff and a sling only, dared, in the name of the Lord of Hosts, to engage a gigantic adversary prepared at all points, boasting of his strength, and of whom even mighty warriors 'were greatly afraid.' Our enemies, prosecuting the war by sea and land with implacable fury, taxation at home and borrowing abroad, in the midst of difficulties and dangers, were alike impracticable. Hence the necessity of new emissions."

The whole of this address, too long for insertion, is evincive of strong anxiety, but without despondency; on the contrary, it speaks throughout the language of patriotic firmness, never for a moment admitting a doubt of success. Neither does it attempt to disguise the appalling state of affairs. The naked truth is told, and a remedy proposed for every calamity. Among the numerous vexations which annoyed Congress, loud and frequent complaints refer to monopolizers and the prodigality of the inferior officers, both civil and military.

(To be continued.)

From Harper's New Monthly Magazine.

THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

A stranger in the Quaker City is naturally desirous of visiting the objects of particular interest, one of the greatest of which is the United States Mint. Philadelphians are rather proud of possessing the general Mint, and are a little anxious lest their rival, New York, should succeed in obtaining a branch, which would perform the great bulk of the work, as the United States Sub Treasury in that city in reality is the nation's banking house. Leaving our hotel, we walk up Chestnut Street, and between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets come to a fine, substantial, two-story marble building, entirely fire-proof, and inclosing within its quadrangular walls a spacious court yard.

Ascending the massive marble steps, we enter an airy hall, freshened by a gentle breeze which sweeps through into the Courtyard beyond. Between the hours of nine and twelve visitors are admitted, who are escorted about the building by gentlemanly conductors, of whom there are seven. Passing through the hall, on one side are the Weigh Rooms for bullion and the office of the Chief Clerk of the Treasurer, and on the other the offices of the Cashier and Treasurer.

We cross the paved court yard, spacious and orderly, with boxes piled neatly around, and stacks of copper and nickel ingots ready for rolling. The well-proportioned chimney, one hundred and thirty feet high—somewhat bullet marked by pistol practice of the night watchmen—towers above the surrounding roofs, which look low by contrast. Thus we are conducted into the melting, refining and assaying rooms; but having witnessed these processes in the New

York Assay Office, we will linger for a moment only to see the melter run the gold and silver, now reduced to standard quality, into ingots. The standard of nine-tenths fine gold is now adopted by all the principal nations of the world, except England and Russia.

The ingots are bars sharpened at one end like a chisel blade, and are about a foot long, three-fourths to two and a half inches broad, and half an inch thick, according to the coin to be cut from them. Continuing our walk through a short entry, we come to the Rolling Room.

Those massive machines are the rolling mills—four of them in a row, with their black heavy stanchions and polished steel rollers. The old man who runs this mill has been in the Mint nearly forty years, and young girls who came to see him work are now grandmothers, perhaps, with the tally of their good works marked on their foreheads, a virtue in every wrinkle; and he has gone on rolling out the ingots year after year, handling more gold in a twelve month than you and I shall see in all our lives. He has not tired of showing his machine to visitors, and caresses the surly old iron with a motherly pride and affection. He measures two ingots, and shows us they are of the same length; puts one of them between the rolls, just above the clock dial, chisel end first, and it is drawn slowly through. He measures it with the other ingot, and we see it has grown about an inch longer and correspondingly thinner. This is the “breaking down.” But it is not yet thin enough; it must be rolled ten times if gold, or eight if silver, to reduce it sufficiently, occasionally annealing it to prevent its breaking. No wonder the rollers look bright, they breakfast on silver and dine on gold.

(To be continued.)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(Continued.)

Connecticut Cent, 1787; large figures; fine; scarce. 38 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; punctuated with trefoils; rare; fine. \$1.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; fine; scarce. 87 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; AUCTORI CONNEC.; very fine. \$1.

Connecticut Cents, 1787; a selection of twenty pieces; good. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1787; AUCTORI CONNECT.; almost uncirculated; very rare. \$2 25.

Connecticut Cents, 1787; a selection of eleven varieties; good. 50 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; INDE. ET LIE.; uncirculated; very rare. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; struck over a Nova Constellatio; fine. \$1 25.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; uncirculated; scarce. 37½ cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; the shield distinctly marked with three figures; very fine; scarce. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; struck over another coin; very fine. 25 cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; small round head; die broken. 37½ cents.

Connecticut Cent, 1788; large bust; very fine. 62 cents.

Connecticut Cents, 1788; eight pieces; good. 45 cents.

Puctori Plebis, 1787; reverse, INDEP. ET LIBER.; very fine; very rare. \$3 25.

George Clinton Copper, 1787; obverse, bust of George Clinton; reverse, arms of New York, with the motto EXCELSIOR; very fine; extremely rare. \$32 50.

Non Vi Virtute Vici, or New York Washington Cent; obverse, bust of Washington; reverse, Liberty seated, NEO EBORACENSIS, 1786; finest known; very rare. \$40.

New York Cent, 1787; eagle and stars, E PLURIBUS UNUM; reverse, arms of the State, with the motto, EXCELSIOR; eagle at the top; fine; very rare. \$11.

New York Cent, 1787; EXCELSIOR; same as the last, but with the eagle at the top of the shield; finer than the last and of the rarest variety. \$20.

New York Cent, 1787; Indian standing, with bow and tomahawk, LIBER NATUS LIBERTATEM DEFENDO; reverse, arms of the State of New York, with motto and date; very rare. \$90.

New York Cent, 1787; obverse, in design similar to the last, but from another die; reverse, an eagle standing on a portion of a globe, NEO. EBORACUS EXCELSIOR, with date; this variety of the Liber Natus is even rarer than the last, and being in about as fine condition, it is considered more valuable. \$80.

New York Cent; obverse, Indian standing; legend like the last two, LIBER NATUS LIBERTATEM DEFENDO; reverse, bust facing right, GEOR. III, REX; unique; uncirculated. \$36.

New York Cent, 1787; IMMUNIS COLUMBIA; Liberty seated on a globe; scarce. \$7.

New York Cent, 1787; NOVA EBORAC; fine; scarce. \$6.

New York Cent, 1787; NOVA EBORAC; rare; very good. \$2.

New York Cents, 1787; NOVA EBORAC; a pair, one facing right, the other left; the one to the right from a die distinctly different from the one last described; both fine. \$1 25.

New York Cent, 1787; goddess to the left; very good. \$1.

New York Cent, 1787; NOVA EBORAC; large head facing right; reverse, VIRT. ET LIB.; totally different from the other varieties; extremely rare. \$7 50.

New York Cent, 1794; obverse, like the last; reverse, "Birmingham Half Penny, 1793;" proof; rare. \$1 50.

New York Cent, 1795; Talbot, Allum & Lee; uncirculated; rare. \$1 50.

New York Cent, 1794; Talbot, Allum & Lee; proof; rare. \$2 25.

New York Cent, 1794; Talbot, Allum & Lee; very fine. \$1.

New York Cent, 1789; Mott's Token; scarce. \$2 25.

New York Piece; obverse, bust to right, NEW YORKE; reverse, Liberty seated, COLONY OF; tin, of recent origin, but rare. \$1.

New York Cent, Church Penny; on the 4th of January, 1790, the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Albany "*Resolved*, that one thousand coppers be stamped *Church Penny*, and placed with the treasurer to exchange with members of the congregation, at the rate of twelve for one shilling, in order to add respect to the weekly collection;" good condition and of great rarity. \$4.

(*To be continued.*)

THOMAS & SONS' COIN SALE.

THE LONGACRE COLLECTION.

The collection of coins, medals, etc., belonging to the estate of James B. Longacre (deceased), late of the United States Mint, was sold at public auction, by Messrs. Thomas & Sons, of this city, on Friday afternoon, January 21. A very respectable audience was present at this sale, and coins realized good prices, as follows:

1836 gold dollar; pattern piece; \$6.

1849 silver half dime; pattern piece; \$13.

1856 half cent; nickel; \$4 75.

1856 cent; nickel size, in copper, without date, \$5.

1857 quarter eagle; copper; \$3.

1858 Indian head cent, nickel; broad planchet, without date, \$8 25.

1860 half eagle; in copper; concave planchet; pattern piece; \$8 50; worth \$20.

1861; God our trust silver half dollar; \$31.

1863 ten cents; postage currency; pattern piece; \$6 50.

1866 five cents; copper; pattern piece; \$11.

1867 five cents; nickel; pattern piece; \$10.

1867 five cents; aluminum; pattern piece; \$6.

1867 five cents; copper; pattern piece; \$19.

1868 dime; aluminum; \$10.

1868 postage currency; one dime; aluminum; \$19.

Field medal in aluminum; \$26; this medal should have brought \$50, as but ten were struck, and no others will be issued in aluminum. The metal alone in this medal cost the government \$12; lucky Cogan was the buyer.

Vanderbilt medal; copper; \$19.

1824 silver half dollar; medallions of Washington and Lafayette; a beautiful and very rare piece; sold for the small sum of \$11; lucky Cogan was the buyer.

Set of English coinage, William IV; gold, silver and copper; \$72 50.

Set of French coinage, Napoleon III; gold, silver and copper; \$26.

English medal, by Wyon; Queensland Pastoral Society; obverse, horse, bull, etc.; bronze proof; \$6. This medal was one of the choice pieces of the sale, and was highly esteemed by Mr. Longacre as a most beautiful specimen of Wyon's skill. The anatomy is very fine.

Adam Eckfeldt medal; silver; \$7.

Other medals sold very low. The plaster casts realised all they were worth. The sale was a success.

The valuable library of choice books on Art, profusely illustrated; also the very valuable collection of proof engravings and oil paintings belonging to the estate of James B. Longacre, deceased, will be sold early this month. Catalogues preparing.

ARMS, CRESTS AND MONOGRAMS.

The collection of crests and monograms is one of the most pleasing occupations that one could wish for a leisure hour. They form, when well selected and neatly arranged, a beautiful and attractive array of devices, legends and colors, many of them being embossed and highly colored, or richly emblazoned in gold and silver. The royal families of Europe, nobility of England, colleges of Oxford and Cambridge, etc., have their arms, while the ships of the line and regiments of the royal army have each their crest, many bearing devices appropriate to their names, as for instance: the crest of H. M.'s ship Reindeer, containing a representation of the reindeer; the crest of H. M.'s ship Simoon, which shows a caravan upon the desert—the camels kneeling upon the earth and the air filled with clouds of sand. The collector of stamps should have the crests and monograms of the rulers of the countries represented on the pages of his album, and those who are not stamp collectors could find no better mode of becoming acquainted with the names, titles and mottoes of the nobility of England and other countries than to form a collection of their crests and monograms. Being neither expensive nor rare, a good collection is within the reach of all.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW LONDON, CONN., Jan. 11, 1870.

GENTS:—Enclosed find \$1 50 for one copy of the Coin and Stamp Magazine for 1870. Willing to aid in giving it a circulation to the extent of my ability, and also wishing you an abundant success, I remain, yours,

DANIEL LEE.

[Many thanks for your kind aid. Will reciprocate all your intentions, if opportunity offers. Ed.]

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Jan. 13, 1870.

GENTS:—Enclosed please find \$1 50 for your magazine for the ensuing year. Accept my congratulations on the addition to its size and improved appearance of your January number.

Respectfully, yours,

A. S. F.

WOBURN, MASS., Jan. 1, 1870.

GENTS:—As you have so generously tried to please me, *one* of the subscribers to your excellent magazine, I can do no less than try to return the compliment by sending along my subscription money for the present year, which please find enclosed, and also my humble congratulations upon the healthy and improved appearance of the magazine. Concerning the remarks of R. C., in the January number, I must say that I, as a regular subscriber from the beginning, am not in favor of his proposition. I do not feel as if I could pay for the same thing twice, even if it be in a little different form. If the desired information is worth anything to anybody, it is worth paying for, and as the old subscribers have once paid for it, it is no more than right that the new ones should do the same thing; not that the old ones should pay twice. As to its adding to the circulation of the magazine, I must say that I cannot see it in that light, but believe the contrary would be the effect for the reason above stated. I do not pretend to know anything about this for a certainty, but this is simply what I think. I am glad of the change from double to single columns, and think it one for the better. I am glad, too, of the enlargement, which looks as if you meant to give us our money's worth, and I shall be still gladder (as a little fellow once said) when I get my next number. Glorious success be with you, and a happy new year from, sincerely, yours,

M. L.

UNADILLA, OTSEGO Co., N. Y., Jan. 19, 1870.

GENTS:—I notice in your magazine for January that one subscriber wishes you to publish in the succeeding numbers matter that has appeared in the past, because he has just commenced taking the magazine and consequently has not the back numbers. As this would injure the value of the first, second and third volumes, would it not be unjust to those who have those volumes? I think there is enough that has *not been published* that would be as interesting and valuable as anything that has. What think you Mr. Editor?

Wishing success to your magazine in the future, as in the past, I remain, yours, truly,

W. H. P.

WILLIAMSPORT, PA., Jan. 14, 1870.

DEAR SIR:—I have an excellent library, the accumulation of a lifetime, but I have not given special attention to rare books; very many of those I own, however, are rare. Coins, medals, etc., have been my hobby. I have *one* of the best, if not the *very best*, private collections in Pennsylvania since Mr. Mickley's has been scattered. That collection should have been kept intact, and preserved by some numismatical or historical society having a perpetual charter. We may not hope to see such another collection in our day. Not being a bidder for the rare book to which you refer, and thanking you for your kind offer, I am, truly, yours,

WILLIAM F. PACKER.

NEW SHARON, ME., Jan. 11, 1870.

MASON & Co.:—GENTS.—Why in the name of all that is good and great do you not send me catalogues of your coin sales? I occasionally receive one. Enclosed I send you \$1 50 to cancel my obligation to the magazine for the present year. Cannot keep house without it. We are having *glorious* sleighing these days. Should be extremely happy to take you into my cutter any of these days and give you an airing. Will also give you plenty of nice apples and cider for the evening entertainments and lots of pretty girls to chat with. What do you say, will you come?

Yours, respectfully,

J. F. PRATT, M. D.

[We should like to visit you for the sake of the apples, cider and sleigh ride, and we should honestly add, the "chat with the pretty girls;" but, then, what would our "other half" say to the pleasant little excursion? We like Maine, was born there and know what sleighing is. Sorry we cannot go. Ed.]

CABINETS OF COINS FOR SALE.

We are authorised to offer for private sale two handsome cabinets of coins. The first collection, comprising a fine series of American silver and copper coins—nearly complete; also, nearly a full set of mint miscellaneous medals, in fine condition; rare and fine colonials, 200 different pattern pieces, foreign coins and medals, store cards etc.; value, \$5500. The second cabinet embraces a full collection of cents and half cents, dollars, half dollars, quarter dollars, dimes, half dimes, etc., proof sets, patterns, etc.; value, \$2000. Full details by mail.

LOYAL UNION.

No. 2. Vol. 2, of a neat, spicy, readable juvenile paper, under the above title, is on our table from Messrs. Terhune & Campbell, publishers, Newark, New Jersey. This publication circulates largely among stamp and coin collectors, and is a good medium for stamp advertisers, to reach an excellent class of customers. All of our juvenile patrons should subscribe. Only 30 cents per annum, and eight pages of short and entertaining articles. Success to the *Loyal Union*.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. R.—Infallibility in numismatics can scarcely be claimed, even by the erudite "S. S. C.," and as for the errors in our journal, we always admitted them, and regretted their appearance.

R. P.—Always proud to hear from you and esteem all your favors highly.

S. W. P.—Dickeson's Coin Manual, \$10. Snowden's Medals (illustrated), \$10.

L. R. S.—The 1836 cent. in "Trifet & Co.'s First Coin Sale" was described as a "proof," and we purchased it for you for two dollars, relying upon the description as catalogued. Upon receiving the cent from the auctioneer, in Boston, we discovered the error of description, and returned the coin, as a piece not properly described and *not worth five cents*. The auctioneer, Mr. Leonard, handed the coin to Messrs. Trifet & Co., requesting them to refund the two dollars, which up to this date have not been received. If this is *fair and just* we lose two dollars and you lose nothing. Put the saddle on the right horse.

T. W. T.—Eliot's "INDIAN BIBLE" was printed by Samuel Green, Cambridge, 1663. Shephard's "SINCERE CONVERT" was translated into Indian by the Reverend John Eliot, and licensed to be printed by Grindal Rawson; and was printed by Samuel Green, Cambridge, 1689. The Bible is valued at \$500, and the "Sincere Convert" at \$15. The old chest from the Mayflower would be valuable if properly authenticated; but its value would depend greatly on its credentials and appearance. Write to the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

S. W. A.—Ex-Governor Packer, of this State, is reported to be in possession of a fine cabinet of coins. We publish a communication from Williamsport (from the Ex-Governor), which will give you an idea of his collection. Mr. Packer was a customer of ours as early as 1860, when we occupied the little curiosity shop in Second Street, in this city.

E. S. N.—The cents you inquired about are all sold. Will notify you when we get a fresh supply. 1850's, uncirculated, are worth from \$1 to \$2.

E. C. L.—Rejoiced to know you are still alive. For nearly seventeen years you have been away. Have you collected any good coins?

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

NEW ISSUES.

SPAIN.—The Stamp Collectors' Magazine announces the emission of a series of stamps for Spain. The design consists of an effigy, in an oval, intended to symbolize Spain: value and date (1870) in a scroll below. Upon those intended for Cuba the inscription, CORREOS appears in a scroll above the head; upon those for Spain the inscription is COMUNICACIONES. The series for Cuba will consist of 5, 10, 20 and 40 centimos; that for the mother country, 1, 2, 4, 10, 25, 50, 100, 200 and 400 millesimas d' escudo.

1 escudo 600 mil, 2 escudos, 12, 19 cuartos.

NATAL.—From the Stamp Collectors' Magazine we learn that a provisional has made its appearance. It is the current shilling stamp, with the word POSTAGE surcharged in black ink on the upper part.

DUTCH INDIES.—The inhabitants of Java have become tired of the solitary stamp that has been doing duty for them since April, 1864, and have withdrawn it to give place to a set of four values, viz:

5 cents, green,	20 cents, deep blue,
10 do bistre,	50 do carmine.

The design is very similar to the current issue of the mother country, except that the head of the king is to the *right*; NED INDIES above, value below.

NEW GRANADA.—Another value, 20 centavos, blue, similar in design to the 5 and 10 centavos, issued last year, has made its appearance.

VICTORIA.—The Philatelist announces the emission of a 2 penny envelope, color pink, for this colony.

CANADA.—We have just received a specimen of a 3 cent Canada stamp, identical in design and color with the 3 cent stamp of 1868, but of the same size as the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent of the same issue.

UNITED STATES.—The Post Master General has recommended the issue of a 1 cent envelope.

The convention of postmasters assembled at Washington have recommended the reduction of fees for registered letters to six cents, and the charges for money orders, in amounts not exceeding ten dollars to five cents.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

A Massachusetts contemporary does not want the postage stamps changed again. It says the post office clerks can now demolish locomotives all day long, and save the railroads the expense and trouble; whilst for them to punch the heads of Washington, Lincoln and other fathers of their country (according to the new designs) would be highly disgraceful.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

COLLECTOR, WASHINGTON.—We do not know what the rates of postage were in 1800. Probably the same as in 1803, which were as follows: any distance not exceeding 30 miles, 6 cents; not exceeding 60 miles, 8 cents; not exceeding 100 miles, 10 cents; not exceeding 150 miles, $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents; not exceeding 200 miles, 15 cents; not exceeding 250 miles, 17 cents; not exceeding 350 miles, 20 cents; not exceeding 450 miles, 22 cents, and to any greater distance, 25 cents. Newspapers for any distance not exceeding 100 miles, 1 cent and for greater distance, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

J. E. L., ALBANY.—We cannot say when the new issue of U. S. will come into use.

F. S. H., TROY.—The unperforated 2 and 4 real stamps of Costa Rica are catalogued by Mons. Moens, but we have never seen them. Your Paraguay stamp is a humbug.

COINS, PATTERN PIECES, MEDALS, ETC., FOR SALE.

FEBRUARY, 1870.

1791 Washington Cent, fine condition,	\$5 00
1791 Washington Cent, small eagle, fine condition,	8 00
1791 Washington Cent, good condition,	3 50
1793 U. S. Cent (chain), good condition,	4 00
1793 U. S. Cent (wreath), fine condition,	5 00
1799 U. S. Cent, extra good condition,	13 09
1804 U. S. Cent, good condition,	4 00
1852 Pattern Ring Dollar, copper proof,	5 00
1852 Pattern Ring Dollar, nickel proof,	4 00
1852 Pattern Ring Dollar, U. S. A., copper proof,	7 00
1850 Pattern Cent, copper proof,	5 00
1850 Pattern Cent, nickel proof,	5 00
Three Cent Piece, obverse, 3; reverse, III, silver proof,	9 00
1850 Three Cent Piece, liberty cap, silver proof,	3 50
1858 Cent, pure nickel, small eagle, tobacco wreath, proof,	5 00
1858 Cent, small eagle, tobacco wreath, copper proof,	6 00
1856 Cent, large eagle, tobacco wreath, copper proof,	6 00
1863 Ten Cents Postage Currency, composition, proof,	6 50
1863 Ten Cents Postage Currency, variety, proof,	6 50
1866 5 Cents, without rays, nickel proof,	5 00
1866 5 Cents, without rays, copper proof,	10 00
1866 5 Cents, divided date, Dutch 5, nickel proof,	5 00
1866 5 Cents, medium 5, copper proof,	10 00
1866 Bust of Washington, copper proof,	10 00
1866 5 Cents, cents in curved line, nickel proof,	5 00
1866 5 Cents, bust of Washington, short 5, nickel proof,	6 00
1868 5, 3 and 1 Cents, tobacco wreath, nickel proof,	16 00
1868 5, 3 and 1 Cents, laurel wreath, nickel proof,	6 00
1869 5, 3 and 1 Cents, laurel wreath, nickel proof,	6 00
1863 2 Cent Piece, size of old copper cent, copper proof,	14 00
1868 10 Cent Piece, size of old copper cent, nickel proof,	22 00
Immunis Columbia, copper, very fine,	12 00
Meade Medal, bronze proof, size 56, in case,	8 00
Mint Medals 15 per cent below the usual price.	

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

JOSEPH N. T. LEVICK,

No. 54 Wall Street (Care of Box 4314), New York,

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FOR SALE.—A Library of 240 Catalogues of Coin Sales; 187 being bound in uniform size, half calf and half paper sides, with names of owner and date of sale on the back of each; nearly all named and priced; 26 of which are previous to 1860. Some of the catalogues are excessively rare and valuable.

Also, 4000 Union Envelopes, neatly arranged in 4 volumes.